

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus for an internal combustion engine comprising:

    NOx removing means provided in an exhaust system of said engine, for adsorbing NOx in exhaust gases from said engine when exhaust gases are in an oxidizing state, wherein ammonia is generated when the NOx removing means reduces the adsorbed NOx and the generated ammonia is retained when the exhaust gases are in a reducing state;

    reforming means provided upstream of said NOx removing means, for reforming reducing components in the exhaust gases to hydrogen when the exhaust gases are in the reducing state, the hydrogen being outputted from the reforming means; and

    fuel adding means for adding fuel to the exhaust gases which flow into said reforming means.

2. (Original) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reforming means is a reforming catalyst.

3. (Original) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reforming means is a partial oxidation catalyst.

4. (Original) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said reforming means contains at least rhodium.

5. (Original) An exhaust gas purifying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reforming means is a three-way catalyst.